Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 00215 111452Z ACTION CU-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /019 W

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R 111443Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6455 USIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A TAGS: SCUL, GE

SUBJECT: COMPOSERS STRING QUARTET

REF: (A) BERLIN 9057, (B) STATE 267870

- 1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GDR KUENSTLERAGENTUR WATZINGER SUB-MITTED SCHEDULE ON JANUARY 11 FOR COMPOSERS STRING QUARTET IN FIVE CITIES AS FOLLOWS: OCTOBER 21 - BERNAU; OCTOBER 23 - ZWICKAU; OCTOBER 25 - FREIBERG; OCTOBER 26 -HALLE; OCTOBER 28 - ROSTOCK. WATZINGER ADDED THAT ALL HALLS WERE TOP QUALITY IN CITIES WHERE MUSICAL PUBLIC LARGE.
- 2. PAO NOTED ABSENCE OF BERLIN AND POINTED OUT THAT ORIGINAL AGREEMENT WITH MFA AND KUENSTLERAGENTUR WAS FOR QUARTET TO BE PARTICIPANT IN 1978 FESTTAGE IN BERLIN.

 WATZINGER SAID NEGOTIATIONS FOR BERLIN CONCERT STILL OPEN BUT IMPLIED DIFFICULTY AND ADDED THAT FESTTAGE WOULD END OCTOBER 15. HE ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF RADIO TRANSMISSIONS. HE SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ENGAGEMENT WOULD BE DOCUMENTED WITH LETTER EXCHANGE BETWEEN EMBASSY AND KUENSTLERAGENTUR. PAO CONFIRMED THIS PROCEDURE, OBTAINED WATZINGER'S AGREEMENT THAT GDR WOULD BEAR ALL INTERNAL LODGING AND TRAVEL COSTS, AND SAID THAT THESE TERMS AS WELL AS EXPECTANCY OF BERLIN UNCLASSIFIED

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ENGAGEMENT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN LETTER.

3. COMMENT: WATZINGER SEEMED UNAWARE OF PREVIOUS LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIS ORGANIZATION AND MFA BUT APPEARED ANXIOUS TO ENSURE ENGAGEMENT WITH SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT, CITING LETTER-EXCHANGE AS ADEQUATE. EMBASSY WILL AWAIT CU COMMENT ON TOUR AS DESCRIBED AS WELL AS

CONTRACTUAL DETAILS (REFTEL B) FOR INCLUSION IN LETTER TO KUENSTLERAGENTUR. OPEN DATES OF OCTOBER 29-30 WOULD BE AVAILABLE STILL FOR BERLIN CONCERT AND EMBASSY WILL STRESS AND PURSUE THIS POSSIBILITY. WHILE OMISSION OF BERLIN IS UNDESIRABLE, EMBASSY PLEASED THAT FIVE GDR CITIES IN WHICH QUARTET NOW SCHEDULED REPRESENT NEW GROUND FOR US CULTURAL PRESENCE. BOLEN

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